* The Directorate of Film Festivals through the Cultural Exchange Programmes and participation in various film festivals plays an important role in increasing the visibility of Indian films abroad. The increased visibility translates into greater demand for Indian films and promtes export earnings.

* In order to bring about a receptive investment regime in the entertainment sector, within India, which would in turn allow for better corporate practices in the sector, a Committee has recently been set up to suggest a strategy to facilitate the flow of venture capital into the sector.

Private players in news and current affairs sector

1343. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to allow private players in the news and the current affairs sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether revenue channel would be allowed for development-oriented radio stations proposed earlier for Government/institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e)The Committee, constituted by the Goverment, on 24th July, 2003, to make recommendations for Radio Broadcasting for Phase-ll, has submitted its recommendations on 17th November, 2003, to the Government. Executive Summary of the recommendations made by the Committee is available on the Ministry's webside *(http://www.mib.nic.in)*. No decision has been taken in the matter.

Screening of movies without commercial breaks

1344. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the pay channels to screen movies on small screen i.e. TV without any commercial breaks and advertisements; and

(b) if so, response of the pay channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Set Top Boxes

1345. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israelis have a completely foolproof system which ensures that the Set Top Boxes could not be hacked; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Shareholding agreement of Star News

1346. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has cleared the new shareholding agreement of the Star News;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has not cleared the shareholding agreement of the Star News.

FIPB has given the approval to the proposal of M/s. Media Content and Communications Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. (MCCS), for foreign investment, subject to the following conditions: